

GREAT DAY IN HISTORY



Everett's Eulogy on Independence Hall

A DEED which neither France nor England, Greece nor Rome, ever witnessed was done in Independence Hall, in the city of Philadelphia: a deed that cannot be matched in the history of the world. That old Hall should forever be kept sacred as the scene of such a deed. Let the rains of heaven distil gently on its roof, and the storms of winter beat softly on its door. As each successive generation of those who have been benefited by the great Declaration made within its walls shall make their pilgrimage to that shrine, may they think it not unseemly to call its walls salvation and its gates praise.—Edward Everett.

It is possible to hold Fourth of July celebrations in the shadow of the structure which saw the birth and signing of the Declaration of Independence, the most potent doctrine for freedom in the history of the world, and the nation has not ignored the opportunity.

There are many patriotic Americans who make it a duty on July 4 to journey to Philadelphia, a pilgrimage to the shrine of liberty, there to raise their voices in thanks and rejoicing for the great deed that was there accomplished.

Since that day, now distant 131 years, when Charles Thomson, rising in his chair, read for the first time the final draft of that momentous document which Thomas Jefferson wrote, but which underwent many changes before meeting with the final approval of the delegates to the continental congress, not an Independence day has been permitted to pass without a proper celebration in the public square back of Independence Hall.

Presidents of the United States, senators, representatives, justices of the highest courts, and even foreign ambassadors have poured forth their eloquence at liberty's cradle. The municipal authorities of the city of Philadelphia are careful to see to it that some distinguished man is always on hand as orator of the day.

The pomp of military circumstance has sometimes been called upon to lend prestige to the occasion, and the best musicians of the land have been proud to play patriotic airs in the shadow of the steeple where hung the bell that so singularly fulfilled the prophetic mission assigned it 24 years before to "proclaim liberty throughout the land."

The location of the hall lends itself to purposes of public celebration. There is ample room, both front and back, for the building stands well back from the pavement, so that a large company can gather in front. In the rear, the beautiful Independence square, there is still more space, and thousands assemble to listen to the orations, and hear the Declaration of Independence read.

This latter is really the distinctive feature of Fourth of July celebrations in Independence square. The day would not seem properly observed with this omitted.

It is a notable record of which every American may be proud that not a Fourth of July has passed since we have been a nation, without the inspired words being uttered again to the air that heard them first.

The first reading of the declaration was that by Charles Thomson, the secretary of congress, when he announced the completed paper to the men who had framed it. Thomson did not, however, read the declaration from the balcony of Independence hall to the people crowded outside to hear for the first time in what terms the colonists should tell King George that his control of the 13 colonies was at an end.

That privilege was reserved for John Nixon, a prominent member of the committee of safety. In honor of the occasion, delegates to the congress fled out in the July sunshine to listen to the sacred words.

Later, long years after, Edwin Forrest, the most noted of American actors, whose love for patriotism and the institutions of his country was deeper even than his regard for the stage, stood on the same spot, and on a Fourth of July morning read the words of Jefferson, as no man has read them before or since. A great crowd was present, perhaps the largest ever as-

sembled, and the actor during and after the reading was cheered again and again.

Forrest esteemed the Declaration of Independence as the best single piece of composition in existence, valuing it even above his beloved Shakespeare.

Two years after the first Fourth of July, there occurred a celebration in Independence square that had a special significance. The advance of the British, and their occupation of Philadelphia during the winter of 1777-1778, had forced congress to leave the Quaker city and go to York.

After the evacuation congress returned July 2 and a grand celebration of the recurrence of the promulgation of the declaration was held, in which nearly the entire population of Philadelphia joined. Chevalier Conrad Alexander Gerard of France, the first minister ever accredited to the United States from any power, was an interested spectator.

During the centennial in Philadelphia there was naturally a notable demonstration, and no less a person than Don Pedro, emperor of Brazil, sat among those who cheered the sentiments that had sounded the downfall of monarchy in this country, and were finally to take his throne from the ruler of Brazil.

In later years, another representative of a foreign country was the central figure at Independence square. Wu Ting Fang, Chinese minister, spoke there with fine eloquence, and made one of the best speeches credited to him in his many felicitous utterances in this country.

The anomaly that he was the avowee of one of the most absolute of monarchies did not prevent the celestial from painting in most graphic phrase what the venerable building stood for.

During his first administration, Grover Cleveland, president of the United States, came to Philadelphia on Fourth of July and, standing on a platform raised on the square, appealed to the young manhood of America that the great lessons of 1776 be not ignored.

Samuel J. Randall, Judge Keller, Gen. Grant, Lewis Cassidy have also figured prominently in Fourth of July celebrations there.

During the administration of Mayor Warwick, himself an orator of genuine gifts, every year was made the occasion of notable demonstrations to which were invited men of national fame.

Under the direction of the governor of Pennsylvania a work of incalculable interest has been finished at Valley Forge park by the state.

Valley Forge has a close relationship with Independence day, and the old camp site has proved a Mecca on July 4 to thousands of Americans who come from all over the union to pay a tribute to the fathers of the United States who suffered and died on this historic spot. Practically the entire site has been reserved. A chapel has been erected on the spot where Washington was discovered at prayer.

At the moment Valley Forge park comprises about 175 acres. It is properly policed and cared for by workmen, whose duty it is to keep the roads and the entire park in perfect order.

Public interest has kept pace with the work. On Memorial day 1,500 persons registered at the headquarters, and this is probably not one-fourth of those who were in the park.

Anywhere from 8,000 to 10,000 Americans will fittingly celebrate July 4, 1908, by going over the ground, on which their heroic forefathers underwent the sufferings that made independence possible.

FROM THE COMMONER

MR. BRYAN'S PAPER

THE FOURTH OF JULY.

A correspondent has asked first, what can be done to promote a movement for a more sane celebration of the Fourth of July and to correct a somewhat perverted patriotic sentiment. Second, what can be done to prepare the children and youth for the high duties of Christian citizenship. As the day approaches for the annual celebration of the Fourth of July it is well that preparation should be made for celebrations in harmony with the national sentiment that led our forefathers to set apart this day as a public holiday. Our failure to celebrate this day is not a good sign and even where it is celebrated, the fact that the celebration turns to amusements rather than to the serious contemplation of the subjects suggested by the day, this fact is likewise significant of a lack of respect for the day.

The Fourth of July is a national holiday because on that day the nation's independence was declared and it is considered as the birthday of the republic. Patriotism would suggest an appropriate celebration in every community—a celebration at which the people would gather to bestow merited praise upon our forefathers; to discuss the fundamental principles of methods of government; to review the achievements of the past; to consider the dangers that menace the future; and to lay plans for the perpetuity of a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Amusements can be introduced in the program but the amusements ought to be incidental and not the main feature of the day. Is it not possible for the people to lay aside for at least one day out of the year their interest in material prosperity and consider the questions vitally concerning our national life and our national destiny?

When the parents commemorate the Fourth of July as they should, it will be easy to prepare the children for the duties of citizenship. We are all imitators to a greater or less extent and the children are quite sure to be impressed by the actions and conversations of their elders. The best way to prepare our children for the discharge of the high duties of citizenship is to be scrupulously careful ourselves about the discharge of the duties of citizenship. If parents are indifferent to the observance of the Fourth of July, their children are apt to be. If the parents prefer amusements on that day, the children are apt to prefer amusements, too. It is not necessary that there should be an elaborate address by a distinguished speaker, although an impressive address by one who enjoys the confidence of the people is entirely fitting. The Declaration of Independence should be read, national airs ought to be sung and those who are leaders of thought in their community ought to give expression to their views. It ought to be a day for the free exchange of sentiment and for the stimulation of thought about public questions and interest in public affairs.

The indifference with which some now speak of the vital principles set forth in the Declaration of Independence ought to lead to more zeal on the part of those who defend the Declaration of Independence. Colonialism would not have been accepted so complacently by so many had there been the interest there ought to have been in the constant discussion of the principles of free government. Imperialism would not have found the reception that it did had the Fourth of July been observed as it ought to have been observed, and the advocates of imperialism and colonialism will grow less in proportion as the people take an active interest in the perpetuation of the ideals of government that led the patriots of 1776 to promulgate the Declaration of Independence and pledge to its support their lives, their property and their sacred honor.

A PREJUDICED VIEW.

Referring to Mr. Bryan's statement at the governors' meeting recently held at the White House that "Not all, but most of the contentions over the line between nation and state are traceable to predatory corporations which are trying to shield themselves from deserved punishment, or endeavoring to prevent needed restraining legislation."

Wouldn't it have been a fairer statement and more true, to have said, "Not all, but most of the contentions over the line between nation and state are traceable to the enactment of not needed, uncalled for, unfair, unjust and unconstitutional laws by incompetent and prejudiced state legislatures, under the influence of the prevalent lemaguery of office seeking leaders, and the attempt to enforce, to the extreme, part of such laws by incompetent, vote seeking state commissions."

HARDLY COMPLIMENTARY.

A recent occurrence at the Volk-soper, at Vienna, is referred to by "Zeit" of that city as "an American settlement." The incident took place immediately after the curtain had fallen on the last scene of "Hoffmann's Erzählungen." The tenor of the company, Adolf Sussmann, took offense at a slight criticism on the part of Mr. Simons, the director, "and," according to the report, "grossly insult-

thereby compelling the owners of corporate property thus discriminated against, to appeal to the broader justice of the federal courts for their rights under the supreme law of the land."

Is it patriotism, or an appeal to the unthinking for support that impels a public man to condemn the federal courts for their protection of the rights of citizens of this republic, under its supreme law as against the enactment and attempted enforcement of laws as above referred to?

(Signed) READER.

The above communication has been received at The Commoner office. The writer affixes his name to the letter, but for publication signs the name "Reader." The Commoner is glad to give "Reader" space for the expression of his opinion, not only as a matter of courtesy to him, but as a matter of information to the public. He is an assistant in the office of a railroad president and represents the extreme railroad view. The language employed by him is sufficient to convict him in any court of being so warped in his views that he holds the public in contempt and considers the public and their representatives as conspirators against the railroads.

His position is identical with that taken by many of the railroad officials in the past; they sent their lobbyists to the national and state capitals; they praised every man as a statesman whose ear was trained to catch the pulsations of a pocketbook and denounced every man as a demagogue who was against wholesale exploitation of the masses. There is evidence, however, that some of the railroad managers have seen the error of this position and now recognize the right of the people to be consulted in matters affecting the railroads. The railroad is a quasi-public corporation and it owes certain duties to its patrons. These patrons can only speak through legislation and their right to speak is no longer denied.

The men who are engaged in legitimate railroading understand that we are entering upon a new era and they have no sympathy with the opinion expressed in the above communication. Instead of characterizing the people as "unthinking," instead of denouncing legislatures as a mob; instead of slandering state governments and state courts the fair minded man admits the iniquity of the past, the rebate and the discrimination between people and places and proposes to meet the public in a spirit of candor and discuss the questions at issue in an open and honorable way.

Let us hope that the number of such railroad men may increase and that their influence may secure harmonious co-operation between the railroads and their patrons. The railroads are necessary to the country, but the country is no less necessary to the railroads. The railroads have helped to settle up the waste places, but the settling up of the waste places has been of great advantage to the railroads.

The honest railroad managers ought to separate themselves from the exploiters and take their place on the side of the public. Anyone who holds the opinions expressed by the "Reader" above or who looks at the subject from his viewpoint cannot hope to meet legislators in the spirit that is necessary for an amicable adjustment of differences.

No reformer, however violent his remedies, no agitator, however unfair his arguments has ever gone to greater length in abusing the railroads than the railroad employes signing himself "Reader" has gone in abusing the public. It is fortunate for the railroads as well as for the public that "Reader" represents the past rather than the present, the departing rather than the coming day. The wise railroad official cannot fail to recognize that there has been a basis for past complaints and that the public sense of justice, which when offended has cried out for reforms, will when satisfied protect patron and stockholder alike from injustice.

The Chicago police cleared the city of pickpockets and thieves when the Republican convention was held. However, the tariff barons, "practical men," "malefactors of great wealth" and admitted violators of the rebate laws did not have to worry. They get their immunity bath in the frypanpan.

The lumber trust has been administered a severe blow by the killing of the Appalachian and White mountain reserve bills and the refusal to put wood pulp on the free list. That is, the blow was almost as fatal to the trust as that famous injunction was to the beef trust.

The Buffalo man who claims he can raise the dead should be sent to Washington and allowed to try his hand on "tariff revision by its friends." Also on "representative government" as illustrated by the Republican majority under Speaker Cannon.

"Money is in circulation," exclaims Mr. Taft. The trouble is that it circulates either so rapidly or so stealthily that the innocent bystander cannot get sight of it.

ed Simons in the presence of the whole company. The members of the chorus and the stage employes then fell upon the tenor, gave him a thorough beating and then threw him off the stage and out of the theater. Now contracts are broken and lawsuits pending." The Americans who read the account did not recognize in the settlement of the dispute anything particularly "American."

MISSOURI NEWS

Filley Is Found Guilty.

Kingsport—Albert Filley, who has been on trial here for the last three days on the charge of a triple murder, was found guilty of murder in the first degree and his punishment fixed at death by the jury under the new law. Filley was convicted of killing his wife, brother and 9-year-old daughter Dollie. Filley, when the verdict was announced, showed no emotion. His attitude was in keeping with that of the entire trial, when he early expressed the hope there would be no hung jury. The jurors disregarded the insanity plea.

Requisition for Fetter.

Jefferson City—Gov. Folk has issued a requisition upon the governor of Oklahoma for the return to St. Charles county, this state, of Frank Fetter, in custody in Kingfisher, Okla. Fetter is wanted to answer to a charge of disposing of mortgaged chattels. The governor also issued a requisition upon the governor of Kansas for "Bud" Sheridan, who is wanted in Jasper county to answer to a charge of assault. He is in Wichita, Kas.

Women Working in Fields.

Chillicothe—Farmers of Livingston county are several weeks behind on their work on account of wet weather and inability to get farm hands. They had about given up hope of saving the wheat crop. Their wives and daughters came to their assistance and are taking the place of men in the wheat fields. They are also assisting in the long-delayed work in the corn fields.

Court Sustains Wilder.

Jefferson City—The Missouri state supreme court sustained the contention of Auditor Wilder that appropriations made for one biennial period cannot be paid from the anticipated revenues of another biennial period. It did so in denying the application for an alternative writ of mandamus against the auditor.

Southeast Missouri Line.

Bismarck—A party of St. Louis capitalists met the Business Men's club of Irondele at that town and completed the preliminary arrangements for an electric railroad to extend from Belgrade, in Washington county, to Perryville, in Perry county. A dam across Big river, near Irondele, will furnish the motive power.

Outlives His Sentence.

Jackson—City Marshal Henry Wagner shot and instantly killed Clay Kinder, a negro, here. The marshal had trouble with Kinder earlier in the day, and the negro said he would kill him within five hours. When Wagner saw the negro make a move as if he intended to shoot, he killed him.

Folk Issues Requisition.

Jefferson City—Gov. Folk has issued a requisition on the governor of Kansas for the extradition of Logan H. Sloan, who is wanted in Jackson county for trial on a charge of grand larceny. Sloan is in custody at Wichita, Kas., and will be held pending the arrival of the Missouri officers.

Bank Examiner Resigns.

St. Joseph—Walter Head, state bank examiner, has tendered his resignation. He has accepted the position of cashier of the German-American bank of this city, succeeding R. R. Calkins, who has been made vice-president. Head was formerly cashier of a bank at De Kalb.

Despondent Woman Takes Acid.

St. Louis—Mrs. Lizzie Parry, aged 39 years, despondent because separated from her husband, drank carbolic acid in her room at 1094 Chestnut street. She was taken to the city hospital in an ambulance, and physicians there said she would die.

Veteran Railroad Man Stricken.

Centralia—Robert Sadder, aged 75 years, many years yardmaster on the Wabash, was stricken with apoplexy here and is in a critical condition. Mr. Sadder has been a railroad man for 52 years, and superintended the building of the Wabash.

Spare This Tree, Sure.

Kirksville—J. B. Caldwell of Kirksville has the record bearing cherry tree. It took 10 boys four hours to gather the fruit. There were exactly 40 gallons. Mr. Caldwell says that he has no idea how much the boys ate.

Dies While Shaking Hands.

Chillicothe—As he was shaking hands with a friend, John Slattery, a farmer residing northwest of here, released his grasp and fell dead in the road. He had been stricken with apoplexy.

Offers Reward for Lewis Hicks.

Jefferson City—Gov. Folk, being advised that there is a probability of his apprehension, issued a proclamation offering a reward of \$150 for the arrest and conviction of Louis Hicks, charged with the murder of Edward Wyles in New Madrid county in February, 1906.

Halderman Made Oil Inspector.

Jefferson City—Gov. Folk appointed F. H. Halderman inspector of oils for the city of La Balle for a term of two years, from April, 1908.

WHERE SHE HAD THE BULGE.

Telephone Girl's Great Opportunity to Get Gloriously Even.

"You know that red-headed cashier that had the nerve to complain of me to the boss the other day," said the girl at the telephone desk, to a New York Times writer. "Well, I got even with him, all right. He ain't married, but he's got a best girl. His father owns a shoe factory over in Jersey, and rich—my! Well, she called him up the other afternoon at her usual time. 'Is Mr. Smith there?' she asks, in her most romantickist voice. 'Yes,' I answers, just as homeylike as she. 'It's his wife wants him, isn't it?' With that Miss Girl hung up with such a jerk my ear hurt. Smith goes around wondering why she does not call him up. Every time he dares he says to me: 'Has any one called me on the 'phone, Miss Limit?' And I look as innocent as a kid and shake my head. 'No,' I tell you, us telephone girls can turn 'Joy to the Bride' into 'Nothin' Doin'' any time we please. Me for us."

SUFFERED TWENTY-FIVE YEARS.

With Eczema—Her Limb Peeled and Foot Was Raw—Thought Amputation Was Necessary—Believes Life Saved by Cuticura.

"I have been treated by doctors for twenty-five years for a bad case of eczema on my leg. They did their best, but failed to cure it. My doctor had advised me to have my leg cut off. At this time my leg was peeled from the knee, my foot was like a piece of raw flesh, and I had to walk on crutches. I bought a set of Cuticura Remedies. After the first two treatments the swelling went down, and in two months my leg was cured and the new skin came on. The doctor was surprised and said that he would use Cuticura for his own patients. I have now been cured over seven years, and but for the Cuticura Remedies I might have lost my life. Mrs. J. B. Renaud, 277 Montana St., Montreal, Que., Feb. 20, 1907."



"What is the matter, Jack?" "Boohoo! Catherine says she's decided I ain't her affinity after all!"

The Merry Widow.

A man whose wife was extremely jealous planned a pleasant surprise for her in the form of a trip to New York to see "The Merry Widow," and wrote a friend in the city to let him know the earliest date for which he could secure seats. The next day when he was away from home the following telegram was delivered there, addressed to him, but opened by his wife:

"Nothing doing with the widow until the tenth. Will that suit you?" Explanations were demanded.—Lippincott's.

Important to Mothers.

Examine carefully every bottle of CASTORIA a safe and sure remedy for infants and children, and see that it bears the

Signature of *Dr. J. C. Williams* In Use For Over 30 Years. The Kind You Have Always Bought.

Not Incurable.

"That man is a poet." "Too bad." "Yes." "How did you discover it?" "I didn't; he told me." "Then perhaps he may get over it."—Nashville American.

FITS, St. Vins' Dance and Nervous Diseases permanently cured by Dr. King's Great Nerve Restorer. Send for FREE \$2.00 trial bottle and treatise. Dr. R. H. King, L.D., 361 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

A man who claims kin with a pessimist displays poor judgment.

Lewis' Single Binder—the famous straight 5c cigar, always best quality. Your dealer or Lewis' Factory, Peoria, Ill.

No, Cordella, the biggest words do not always have the most weight.

The General Demand

of the Well-Informed of the World has always been for a simple, pleasant and efficient liquid laxative remedy of known value; a laxative which physicians could sanction for family use because its component parts are known to them to be wholesome and truly beneficial in effect, acceptable to the system and gentle, yet prompt, in action.

In supplying that demand with its excellent combination of Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna, the California Fig Syrup Co. proceeds along ethical lines and relies on the merits of the laxative for its remarkable success.

That is one of many reasons why Syrup of Figs and Elixir of Senna is given the preference by the Well-Informed. To get its beneficial effects always buy the genuine—manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co., only, and for sale by all leading druggists. Price fifty cents per bottle.